

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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Security*  
29 JAN 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Communications  
Director of Research & Development  
Director of Technical Service

FROM: James H. McDonald  
Director of Logistics

SUBJECT: Review of Outstanding Patent Secrecy Orders

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1. There are a number of patent applications pending in the U.S. Patent Office which are being pursued by either Agency employees or Agency contractors, and which are under Secrecy Orders at this Agency's request. Due to a change in the laws underlying such Secrecy Orders, the need for all of these Orders will now need to be reconfirmed by this Agency on an annual basis.

2. In order to revalidate these Secrecy Orders, it will be necessary to have these applications, as they exist in the files of the Patent Office, reviewed by some responsible official, who should possess at least Secret classifying authority.  25X1

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3. Attached are three lists of patent applications, divided on the basis of what our files reflect as the "historic interest" of a particular Agency office in that application. Please identify those files on the list for your office which should be maintained under Secrecy Order and those which may be released. The Secrecy Order is only necessary to protect the technology; Agency sponsorship (if this was originally classified) may be protected by other methods than a Secrecy Order covering the entire application.

4. If we have been in error in our determination of current responsibility, please coordinate directly with whatever office has the current interest in the technology and advise us of the results. We have some substantive files on these applications, but they vary in completeness, and rarely reflect the full application as finally filed in the Patent Office. A visit to the Patent Office may also be arranged and would probably be desirable to verify that what is being covered actually merits protection. As this revalidation will be an annual exercise, a full review this year should make the task substantially easier in future years.  25X1

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5. If you will need to have someone visit the Patent Office, please advise us  25X1 as promptly as possible.

Otherwise, we would appreciate your response on the various applications by 9 February 1979. Please include for our permanent records the name and employee number of the classifying official for each application you wish to  25X1

25X1 6. For any assistance on the above, please contact Mr.

James H. McDonald

Attachments

cc: Chairman, CIA Patent Board w/atts

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